

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (original) A method for peer-to-peer system recovery, wherein said peer-to-peer system comprises a plurality of virtual tape controllers in communication with a first virtual tape server and a second virtual tape server, comprising the steps of:

generating a shutdown key regarding the status of said first virtual tape server;

saving said shutdown key in each of said plurality of virtual tape controllers;

taking said first virtual tape server out of operation at a first time;

taking said second virtual tape server out of operation at a second time;

placing said second virtual tape server in operation at a third time;

determining if said first virtual tape is in operation at said third time;

operative if said first virtual tape is not in operation at said third time:

setting a VTC agreement threshold;

determining by each virtual tape controller whether to place said second virtual tape server on-line;

determining if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said second virtual tape server on-line is greater than said VTC agreement threshold;

operative if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said second virtual tape server on-line is greater than said VTC agreement threshold, placing said peer-to-peer system on-line with only said second virtual tape server in operation.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of operative if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said second virtual tape server on-line is not greater than said VTC agreement threshold, keeping said peer-to-peer system off-line.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a command to take said first virtual tape server out of operation.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:  
providing said command to a first one of said plurality of virtual tape controllers;  
providing said command from said first virtual tape controller to the remaining virtual tape controllers.

5. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein said first command comprises a command execution mode.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 7 5, wherein said command execution mode is selected from the group consisting of normal mode, expedite mode, immediate mode, and forced mode.

7. (original) A method for peer-to-peer system recovery, wherein said peer-to-peer system comprises a plurality of virtual tape controllers in communication with a first virtual tape server and a second virtual tape server, comprising the steps of:

generating a shutdown key regarding the status of said first virtual tape server and said second virtual tape server;

saving said shutdown key in each of said plurality of virtual tape controllers;

taking said first virtual tape server and said second virtual tape server out of operation at a first time;

attempting at a second time to return said first virtual tape server and said second virtual tape server to operation;

determining if both said first VTS and said second VTS are returned to operation at said second time;

operative if both said first VTS and said second VTS are returned to operation at said second time, placing said peer-to-peer system on-line with both said first virtual tape server and said second virtual tape server in operation.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

operative if one of said first VTS and said second VTS is operational and the other remains out of operation at said second time, determining by each virtual tape controller whether to place the operational virtual tape server on-line;

determining if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said operational virtual tape server on-line is greater than said VTC agreement threshold;

operative if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said operational virtual tape server on-line is greater than said VTC agreement threshold, placing said peer-to-peer system on-line with only said operational virtual tape server in operation.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of operative if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said operational virtual tape server on-line is not greater than said VTC agreement threshold, keeping said peer-to-peer system off-line.

10. (currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer ~~useable~~ readable medium having computer readable program code disposed therein for peer-to-peer system recovery, wherein said peer-to-peer system comprises a plurality of virtual tape

controllers, including said article of manufacture, in communication with a first virtual tape server and with a second virtual tape server, the computer readable program code comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

- generating a shutdown key regarding the status of said first virtual tape server;
- saving said shutdown key;
- taking said first virtual tape server out of operation at a first time;
- taking said second virtual tape server out of operation at a second time;
- placing said second virtual tape server in operation at a third time;
- determining if said first virtual tape is in operation at said third time;
- operative if said first virtual tape is not in operation at said third time:
- setting a VTC agreement threshold;
- determining whether to place said second virtual tape server on-line;
- determining if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said second virtual tape server on-line is greater than said VTC agreement threshold;
- operative if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said second virtual tape server on-line is greater than said VTC agreement threshold, placing said peer-to-peer system on-line with only said second virtual tape server in operation.

11. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 10, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect keeping said peer-to-peer system off-line if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said second virtual tape server on-line is not greater than said VTC agreement threshold.

12. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 10, said computer readable program

code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect providing said first command to the remaining virtual tape controllers.

13. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein said first command comprises a command execution mode.

14. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein said command execution mode is selected from the group consisting of normal mode, expedite mode, immediate mode, and forced mode.

15. (currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer ~~useable~~ readable medium having computer readable program code disposed therein for peer-to-peer system recovery, wherein said peer-to-peer system comprises a plurality of virtual tape controllers, including said article of manufacture, in communication with a first virtual tape server and with a second virtual tape server, the computer readable program code comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

generating a shutdown key regarding the status of said first virtual tape server and said second virtual tape server;

saving said shutdown key;

taking said first virtual tape server and said second virtual tape server out of operation at a first time;

attempting at a second time to return said first virtual tape server and said second virtual tape server to operation;

determining if both said first VTS and said second VTS are returned to operation at said second time;

operative if both said first VTS and said second VTS are returned to operation at said second time, placing said peer-to-peer system on-line with both said first virtual tape server and said second virtual tape server in operation.

16. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 15, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

operative if one of said first VTS and said second VTS is operational and the other remains out of operation at said second time, determining whether to place the operational virtual tape server on-line;

determining if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said operational virtual tape server on-line is greater than said VTC agreement threshold;

operative if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said operational virtual tape server on-line is greater than said VTC agreement threshold, placing said peer-to-peer system on-line with only said operational virtual tape server in operation.

17. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 16, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect operative if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said operational virtual tape server on-line is not greater than said VTC agreement threshold, keeping said peer-to-peer system off-line.

18. (currently amended) A computer program product embodied in a computer readable medium, wherein said computer program product is usable with a programmable computer processor ~~having computer readable program code embodied therein~~ for peer-to-peer system recovery, wherein said peer-to-peer system comprises a plurality of virtual tape controllers in communication with a first virtual tape server and with a second virtual tape

server, comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to generate a shutdown key regarding the status of said first virtual tape server;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to save said shutdown key;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a first command to take said first virtual tape server out of operation at a first time;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a second command to take said second virtual tape server out of operation at a second time;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a second command to bring said second virtual tape server back in operation at a third time;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine if said first virtual tape is in operation at said third time;

computer readable program code which, if first second virtual tape is not in operation at said third time, causes said programmable computer processor to retrieve a VTC agreement threshold;

computer readable program code which, if said first virtual tape is not in operation at said third time, causes said programmable computer processor to determine whether to place said second virtual tape server on-line;

computer readable program code which, if said first virtual tape is not in operation at

said third time, causes said programmable computer processor to determine if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said second virtual tape server on-line is greater than said VTC agreement threshold;

computer readable program code which, if said first virtual tape is not in operation at said third time and if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said second virtual tape server on-line is greater than said VTC agreement threshold, causes said programmable computer processor to place said peer-to-peer system on-line with only said second virtual tape server in operation.

19. (original) The computer program product of claim 18, further comprising computer readable program code which, if said first virtual tape is not in operation at said third time and if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said second virtual tape server on-line is not greater than said VTC agreement threshold, causes said programmable computer processor to keep said peer-to-peer system off-line.

20. (original) The computer program product of claim 18, further comprising computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to provide said first command to the remaining virtual tape controllers.

21. (original) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein said first command comprises a command execution mode.

22. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein said command execution mode is selected from the group consisting of normal mode, expedite mode, immediate mode, and forced mode.

23. (currently amended) A computer program product embodied in a computer



readable medium, wherein said computer program product is usable with a programmable computer processor having computer readable program code embodied therein for peer-to-peer system recovery, wherein said peer-to-peer system comprises a plurality of virtual tape controllers in communication with a first virtual tape server and with a second virtual tape server, comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to generate a shutdown key regarding the status of said first virtual tape server and said second virtual tape server;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to save said shutdown key;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to take said first virtual tape server and said second virtual tape server out of operation at a first time;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to attempt at a second time to return said first virtual tape server and said second virtual tape server to operation;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine if both said first VTS and said second VTS are returned to operation at said second time;

computer readable program code which, if both said first VTS and said second VTS are returned to operation at said second time, causes said programmable computer processor to place said peer-to-peer system on-line with both said first virtual tape server and said second

virtual tape server in operation.

24. (original) The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising:

computer readable program code which, if one of said first VTS and said second VTS is operational and the other remains out of operation at said second time, causes said programmable computer processor to determine whether to place the operational virtual tape server on-line;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said operational virtual tape server on-line is greater than said VTC agreement threshold;

computer readable program code which, if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said operational virtual tape server on-line is greater than said VTC agreement threshold, causes said programmable computer processor to place said peer-to-peer system on-line with only said operational virtual tape server in operation.

25. (original) The computer program product of claim 24, further comprising computer readable program code which, if the number of virtual tape controllers electing to place said operational virtual tape server on-line is not greater than said VTC agreement threshold, causes said programmable computer processor to keep said peer-to-peer system off-line.